

**ACOTE Meeting Minutes  
for Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
5:30 pm; Hartford Public Library**

1. Call to Order & Review Agenda by JoAnne Bauer at approximately 5:45 pm.
2. Commissioners Present: JoAnne Bauer, Mark Mitchell; June O'Neill; William Upholt, Russell Williams. Staff Present: Thomas Stewart
3. Guest Introductions: Mark Mitchell introduced Anne B. Hulick, RN, MS, JD: State Director of CT Clean Water Action and Coordinator for the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut. She spoke about EPA's Clean Water Act, toxic chemicals, and efforts for executive action encouraging green procurement including stopping buying items (furniture) with flame-retardants. Anne provided two handouts: one from the Coalition For A Safe & Healthy Connecticut about toxic chemicals and a second one from the Washington (State) Toxics Coalition titled *Homes To Waters* about how toxic flame retardants pollute our waterways.
4. Minutes of April 28 meeting were approved with minor corrections: "Mark works with The Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families coalition, which is supported by over 450 diverse organizations."
5. Treasurer's Update: Marilyn clarified that funds budgeted for ACOTE are still distributed through the Department of Health and Human Services, NOT by DPW.
6. Membership: Russell to contact a new membership possibility.
7. Administrative: As a subcommittee, JoAnne Bauer met with Councilor David MacDonald to review the original ACOTE ordinance. Changes are suggested to broaden ACOTE's mission to include "sustainability and community resilience" as well as to highlight targeted efforts toward "recycling" and "clean energy and efficiency."
8. Communications: JoAnne reports that, in consult with Councilor MacDonald, she has set up a Facebook page: "*Hartford Commission on the Environment*" and posts environmental concerns to the page.

## UPDATES

9. Hartford Earth Festival/Green Neighbors Tent: Plans for Green Neighbors Tent at Hartford Earth Festival were discussed. DPW/*Riverfront Recapture* barter for tables and chairs was unsuccessful, as Riverfront has already committed all of its tables and chairs. Marilyn and Tom will arrange for DPW tables and chairs to be used. Alternatively they will pay for 8 tables (\$10 each) and 40 chairs (\$1.75 each) for a total cost of \$150.
10. Recycling/Solid Waste Management: DPW report by Marilyn Cruz-Aponte provided printed report and discussed:
  1. Hartford doing well with respect to recycling rate compared to many other similarly sized CT cities
  2. Workgroups being establish for possible greenhouse on top of landfill and composting strategic plan for the city.
11. Legislative: *Grocery Bag Bill* -- Discussion of SB349 requiring charge for plastic and paper bags at grocery stores. ACOTE approved letters supporting this bill, to be sent by JoAnne to Speaker of House, President Pro Tem of Senate, and Hartford delegates. Mark provided sheet with talking points and information about the bill.
12. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 pm by JoAnne Bauer.

Minutes compiled & submitted by JoAnne Bauer  
(from her notes & those of Bill Upholt and Thomas Stewart.)

**Next Meeting: JUNE 30th, 5:30 pm, Htfd Public Library**